

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property/District Name: Gaithersburg NIKE Launch Site Survey Number: M: 21-187

Project: Master Plan Review, Section 110 review of doe Agency: NIST/Commerce

Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☒ None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Gaithersburg NIKE Launch Site is located at 770 Muddy Branch Road. This complex of 10 buildings operated as a Ajax missile launch site from 1955 to 1963. Consisting of concrete buildings of one and two stories, the architectural complex displays little ornamentation. Common NIKE buildings including a barracks, kennel, launch pads, storage buildings exist on site. However, compared to other similar sites, the Gaithersburg facility is small and does not have some of the standard buildings such as administration and operations. Twelve buildings have been built on site since the Army transferred the site in 1972. The existing NIKE buildings have undergone alterations such as window/door replacement or removal, interior modifications and equipment removal. Coupled with the site changes, the integrity of the buildings is sufficiently reduced to exclude them from National Register eligibility.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)  
Annex, Supporting Photographic Documentation and DOE

Prepared by: Hyatt, James and Hagan, Steve NIST employees

Lauren Bowlin

Nov. 4, 1998

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

NR program concurrence: ☒ yes ☐ no ☐ not applicable

[Signature]  
Reviewer, NR program

11/5/98  
Date

[Signature]

Survey No. ME 21-187

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT**

**I. Geographic Region:**

☐ Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)  
☐ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)  
☒ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll,  
Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)  
☐ Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

**II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:**

☐ Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.  
☐ Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.  
☐ Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.  
☐ Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.  
☐ Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.  
☐ Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900  
☐ Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600  
☐ Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750  
☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815  
☐ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870  
☐ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930  
☒ Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present  
☐ Unknown Period ( ☐ prehistoric ☐ historic)

**III. Prehistoric Period Themes:**

☐ Subsistence  
☐ Settlement  
☐ Political  
☐ Demographic  
☐ Religion  
☐ Technology  
☐ Environmental Adaptation

**IV. Historic Period Themes:**

☐ Agriculture  
☐ Architecture, Landscape Architecture,  
and Community Planning  
☐ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)  
☐ Government/Law  
☒ Military  
☐ Religion  
☐ Social/Educational/Cultural  
☐ Transportation

**V. Resource Type:**

Category: buildings  
Historic Environment: suburban  
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): military defense, missile launch site  
  
  
Known Design Source:

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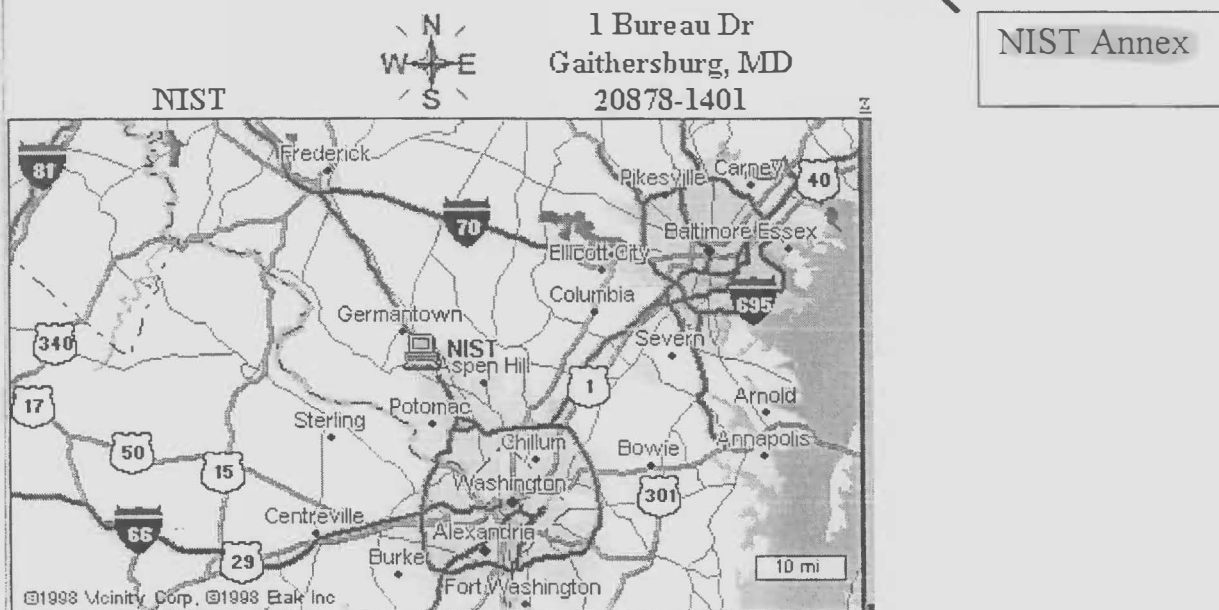
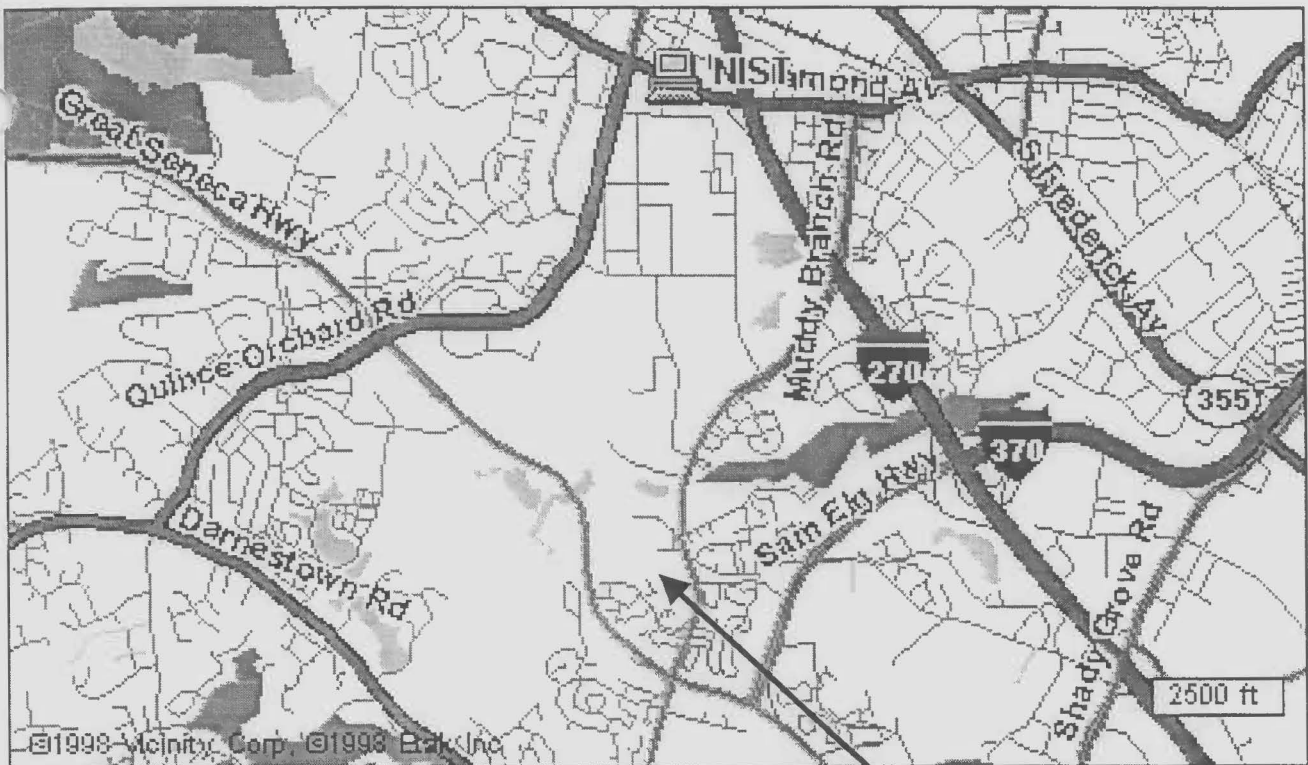
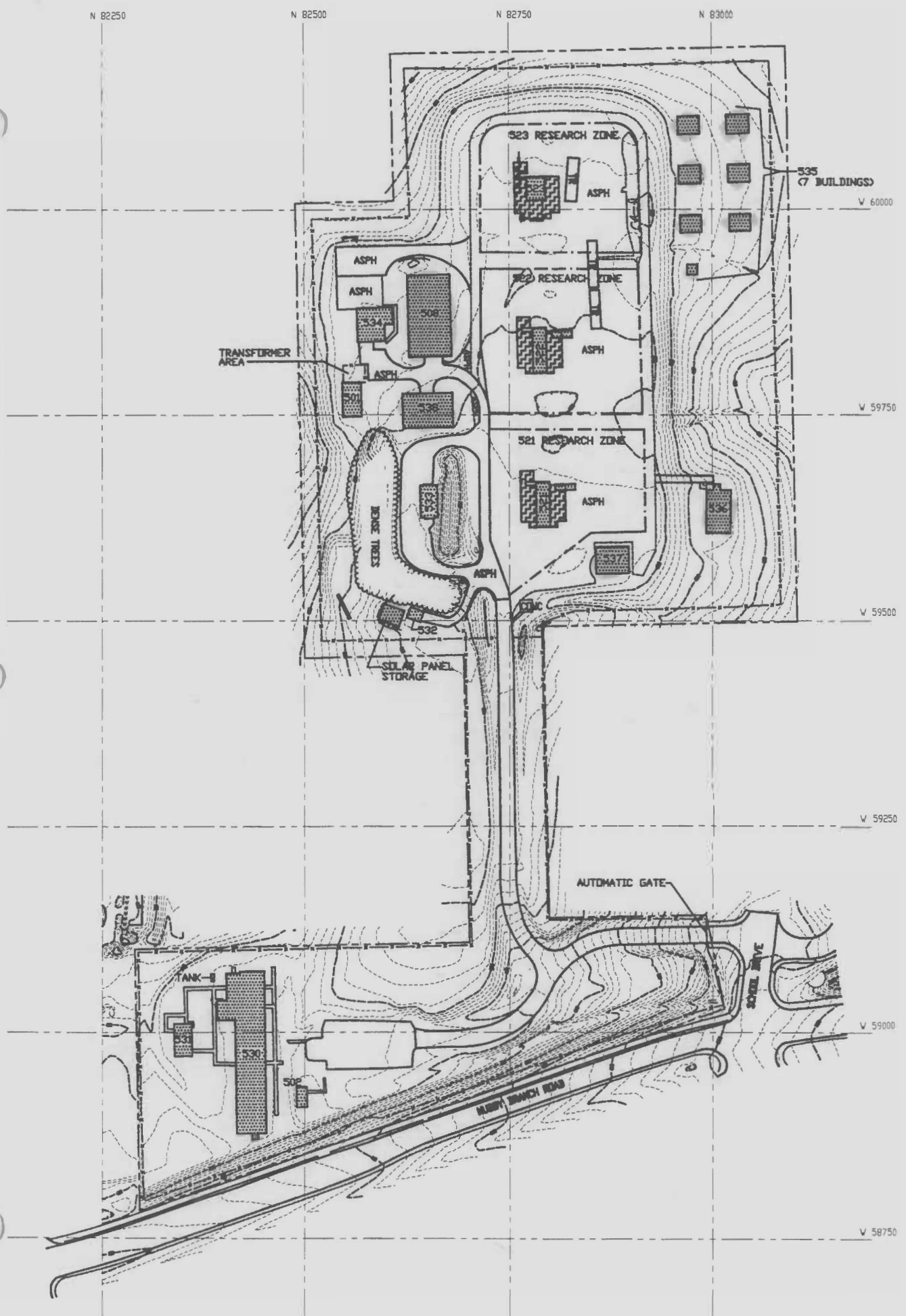


Figure 1: Location Map

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NIKE SITE PLAN  
SCALE: 1" = 60'

DIRECTORY

BLDG. NO.	NAME	TOTAL GROSS S.F.	RESEARCH ZONE S.F.
501	SUBSTATION	827	
502	PUMP HOUSE	242	
508	STORAGE BUILDING	4,938	
521	521 RESEARCH ZONE	3,101	29,000
522	522 RESEARCH ZONE	3,101	34,300
523	523 RESEARCH ZONE	3,415	28,500
530	BARRACKS/BALLISTICS TEST FACILITY	7,305	
531	ROBBY BUILDING	897	
532	DOG KENNEL	153	
533	PROPELLANT HANDLING BUILDING	787	
534	MACHINE SHOP	1,364	
535	BUNGALOWS	2,784	
536	PASSIVE SOLAR TEST FACILITY	1,740	
537	BURN TOWER	1,650	
538	STORAGE BUILDING	2,437	
	SOLAR PANEL STORAGE	524	
TOTAL		33,085	

NON CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES



**GENERAL NOTES:**  
7/8/88 - MASTER PLAN UPDATE SUBMISSION

**ABBREVIATIONS:**  
TR - TRAILER  
ASPH - ASPHALT

**LEGEND:**  
- - - - - PROPERTY LINE  
x-x-x-x-x FENCE LINE  
[Pattern] EXISTING BUILDINGS  
[Pattern] EXISTING BELOW GRADE STRUCTURES  
[Pattern] RESEARCH ZONES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY  
PLANNING DIVISION  
EXISTING  
NIKE SITE PLAN  
ANNEX (SEE SHEET)  
GLAYBOROUGH, MARYLAND

SHEET 1 OF 4 DWG. NP-1A

M: 21-187  
Gaithersburg NIKE Launch Site  
770 Muddy Branch Road  
Gaithersburg  
Rockville Quadrangle

